

HARTFORD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

6:30 PM - City Hall – Council Chambers

Present: Jeff Troeller, Amy Hoffmann, Tim Michalak, Mark Kohnhorst, Todd Rusniak, Dave Ziemer

Excused: Scott Helms

1. President Troeller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM; "This is an open meeting under 19.81 to 19.98 of the Wisconsin State Statutes".
2. Approval of Minutes
MOTION by Tim, seconded by Dave to approve the March monthly minutes.
MOTION CARRIED
3. Informational Monthly Staff Reports – Reviewed
4. Communication and Correspondence - None
5. Appearances / Public Comments – None
6. Old Business

Lincoln Athletic Field Concessions – The Director researched Wisconsin State Statutes and found some information on alcohol consumption on school property in State Statute, Chapter 125.09. There are restrictions for alcohol to be sold on the School District property. As the request for information came from Tim Michalak concerning the sales opportunity, the Director provided the information he found to Mr. Michalak for review. The Director will wait for further direction before placing this back on the old or new business agenda.

Lifejacket Policy Change for Pool – Policy Handout – The Director shared an email from Ian Prust, City Attorney, with his opinion on the City's liability if lifejackets are supplied for use during open swim at the City Pool. Per the email, Ian recommends that the City does not supply the jackets, but could allow lifejackets to be brought into the pool. The City would reserve the right, but no duty, to inspect any personal flotation device in use at Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center.

The opinion from CVMIC, the City's insurance provider, is to follow industry's standard. According to CVMIC, they see the industry standard as not allowing lifejacket use. However, they do not specifically say the City should include or exclude lifejacket use.

The Aquatic/Fitness Supervisor attended a National Conference in which there seemed to be a push for allowing use and even supplying lifejackets to patrons. The reasoning behind this opinion is it is one more means of safety and drowning prevention. The conference had information on grants that are available to purchase jackets. The Aquatic / Fitness Supervisor, in her own research of Wisconsin pools, have found many do allow jackets but do not supply. She will be applying for a grant for lifejackets that would be used for swim lessons as part of the safety curriculum – teaching the proper use of lifejackets.

Alderman Michalak commented that this new Aquatic Center has plenty of space for 'non-swimmers' with a large zero depth area. He is of the opinion that if we were to provide lifejackets, the City incurs more liability. He is not against allowing lifejackets, but doesn't believe the City should supply.

Alderson Kohnhorst also believed the jackets should be allowed, but not provided.

President Troeller asked the Director to bring this matter to the next meeting as an Executive Summary for a vote.

Willowbrook Park Playground Design Options – Tabled until the Director is able to gather design plans and specifications.

7. New Business

ADMINISTRATION

Summer Activity Guide – Distribution will be Tuesday, April 19th.

Summer WTA Tennis Program Grant – The Program Supervisor applied for the WTA Tennis Grant and our department was awarded \$650. This will help pay for an assistant instructor as well as some equipment upgrades.

Notification – City of Hartford Tree City Award – The Director received notification that the City received the Tree City Award for the tree work done in 2015, which included plantings, trimming and removal of trees in parks and along city streets.

RECREATION PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Summer Playgrounds – The Summer Playground will again be held at Woodlawn Park. For the second site, we will be returning to Independence Park.

ADULT / YOUTH SPORT

Youthball Registration & Season Report – Registration ended in March. Registration numbers are a touch lower than last year. We around 450 where we have been around 500 in the past. Teams are starting to be formed. 4 T-ball and 5-6 T-ball have openings yet as does our older baseball league of Koufax, but some leagues are closed.

AQUATICS

Commission Aquatic Center Site Tour – The Commission toured the site before the regular meeting.

Construction Update – As of the construction meeting two weeks ago, construction is on schedule. Staff hopes that doesn't change, as our opening date of July 2nd is listed in multiple places in the Summer Activity guide.

There is a lot of concrete to be poured, but often, the concrete can be covered/insulated in the event of bad weather.

Operational Plan Update – The Aquatic Fitness Supervisor has almost completed the Operational Manual. Staff training will be in the middle of May with additional training in mid-June and soft openings in late June. Eleven lifeguards will be on duty per day. Twenty two guards will be hired in two teams of 11. The Aquatic Fitness Supervisor has been doing interviews to hire the guards, instructors, managers, concession workers and admissions staff. It is anticipated needing to hire around 58 workers for this new Aquatic Center.

PARKS OPERATIONS

Parks Project – The Program Supervisor is working with a contractor to install a new backstop on the east field at Independence Park. The hope is to get this installed yet this spring, however the weather is holding this project up. The first step will be to get the Utility Department to take down the netting and then our park staff will remove the old fence. Once that is done, the contractor will come in to install the new fence.

The Program Supervisor also has ordered new wireless controls for the Lincoln Athlete Field scoreboards. The Utility Department will help us get that working next week. This will be used at the HS Softball teams, the Club games and Rec games.

Arbor Day Tree Planting – This will be held on Friday, April 29th at 5 PM at Woodlawn Park. Local scouts will help us plant 3 trees.

OTHER REPORTS /COMMISSION REQUESTS

President Troeller congratulated Tim on being elected Mayor.

Tim gave praise to the Parks & Recreation Commission for taking their appointment to the board and the work they do seriously. He said he was thankful for being able to serve on this committee.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Michalak seconded by Ziemer to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Submitted by,

Sara Cummings

"Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the City Clerk at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting." Members of the Common Council may attend the above meeting. Pursuant to State ex rel. Badke v. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993) such attendance may be considered a meeting of the Common Council may attend the meeting without violating the open meeting law."